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QUO VADIS?

THE Alban Hills, the Campagna and the Appian Way must all look very much today as they looked twenty centuries ago, when, tradition tells us, Peter put the above memorable question to Christ. Every year students face it from their class-mates, their friends, and the world. The latter says bluntly, "We have bred you, fed you, taught you. What return can you make?" And the students, trying to reply, read magazine articles, attend vocational conferences, consult their class advisers, possibly flip coins. Few see a war-torn, heart-sick world, turning wearily from ancient shibboleths, waiting, wondering, expectant.

Nursing is a field for women, unparalleled in its opportunities for personal service. Still in its pioneer stages, it offers a great deal to the young student; much more than she frequently sees. "I was sick and ye visited me" is capable of many interpretations. Edith Cavell, organizing a training school, teaching the care of the sick to young Belgian women, risking her life, finally giving it for her country, was a nurse; the unknown visiting nurse whose steady nerve and trained intelligence recently saved the life of a young mother in an obscure home, was another. The graduates of a famous school, banqueting their Chief, whose forty years of service had helped to put nursing knowledge and skill in every corner of the world, were nurses honoring a nurse.

A young minister once stood by the bedside of a dying patient. He had taken honors in Greek, Hebrew, and other wise studies and his church was considered uncommonly fortunate. As he was ushered into the sick-room, the eyes of the old woman turned towards him longingly. Her lips said faintly, "It is all very wonderful but—'What is your learning to me?'" Sick people approach our hospitals very much in this attitude of mind. The million dollar private pavilions, the noisy X-ray rooms, the rows upon rows of gleaming, terrible instruments, the endless corridors, the seemingly hopeless efficiency of the busy workers, physicians, nurses or what-not, appall and oppress



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them. Like the little old woman, they ask inarticulately, "What is all this science to me? Can it cure my pain? Will it send me back to my job and my family better, stronger?"

Women who enter nursing today, sincerely, earnestly, face scores of these helpless citizens. The field offers so much more than a means of livelihood or a professional promotion. The graduate nurse by her personal service or by her teaching of others, may help restore health, decrease suffering, give life more abundantly to thousands of her fellow-men. What better response can American girls, typified by their sisters of the frontispiece, make to the world's demand, "Whither goest thou?" than to say, "In their steps"?

OPPORTUNITY

JUNE, to us, is the month of marching feet, and the rhythm of the march is joyous. Out of the high schools of our Main Streets and our cities, out of the colleges and universities a resistless army pours, and we listen to the throb and beat of the march of the youth of the country toward life's first cross roads. The sound of jazz is dominant, but underneath is a deeper, steadier strain. On they come, eager, challenging, purposeful. Beat, beat, go the marching feet, now on this turn, now on that, for the marchers are searching, searching for the road which leads to opportunity.

Each one is seeking self-fulfillment. Many will dally in primrose paths, many others know their heart's desire and go marching unswervingly in search of it. Many more will halt at the first cross roads. These will be lost indeed, if, at the crossing they find no guides. Thousands of wistful, yearning and impetuous souls need wise counsel there. Are *you* prepared, graduate nurses, to tell of the opportunities that await those who join our ranks? Are you eager to show them a way to self fulfillment through social service of a high order?

This is *our* opportunity. Our army is mighty but it needs recruits. Can you guide some of these marching feet into our ranks? Can you demonstrate the opportunities in our profession that await those who, possessing sound bodies and alert minds, possess also a desire to serve? More than your country is calling you now to service! Civilization itself is calling to the thinking women of the world to march steadily, courageously, and with clear vision. Nurses have an unparalleled opportunity to assist in averting the moral catastrophe that threatens the world. We must keep our own vision and objective clear and in so doing guide others into a life of satisfying usefulness,—a life which will help to give health,—mental, moral and physical,—to the peoples of the world. Make the most of June. Make it truly a month of opportunity.

SOME FACTS ABOUT NURSING

From home and hospital, from city and hamlet, from our own country and from foreign lands comes the demand for more and yet more persons properly qualified to play a part in the great movement to obtain skilled care for all who fall sick and better health for all peoples. The figures of the 1920 census are not satisfying although they are impressive, as we had, at the time the census was taken, 149,128 trained nurses (of whom 5,464 were men) and 151,996 persons without training engaged in the care of the sick.

In 1919-20 there were 54,953 students in training and 14,980 graduates in the hospitals conducting these schools. The hospitals nursed by these schools were caring for 252,823 patients daily. There are now about 11,000 nurses engaged in public health nursing, caring for other thousands who are ill, and teaching health. The number of patients cared for by private duty nurses is difficult to estimate. The demand for nurses who can administer or teach in our schools and who are prepared for public health work is constantly increasing. The demand for more and better care for patients in moderate circumstances is imperiously insistent and is a problem that can only be met by coöperative study and effort.

The Director of one of our great schools states that the alumnae of her school are occupying fifty-five different types of nursing positions,—the classification being made under the four heads, administrative, educational, private duty, and public health. Geographically it includes all types of nurses; from those working in the narrow confines of laboratories, those in offices and institutions, those in the homes as private duty nurses and others in the district homes, to those in the far places of the earth in Red Cross work or the many mission fields.

The Placement Bureau at National Headquarters is constantly concerned with finding round pegs to fit the round holes and square pegs to fit the square holes that hospitals are constantly requiring to be filled and that nurses are desirous of filling. Last year hundreds of positions were so filled. They ranged all the way from general duty to important executive posts. Since this is the end of the school year, letters have been pouring into Headquarters at the rate of four or five a day asking for nurses prepared to teach or to direct schools for nurses. The Vocational Department of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing is eager to assist organizations in need of nurses and nurses who are ready for public health positions. Their slogan is "the right nurse in the right field."

New graduates will find the door of opportunity widely open and a warm welcome awaiting them. They are reminded that the

JOURNAL'S Official Directory is an index to reliable sources of information. The Secretaries at National Headquarters, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York, in addition to assisting the graduates who are seeking positions will gladly serve the students who are looking forward to the Promised Land of graduate work, and the potential students who are thoughtfully making a comparative study of schools.

NEWS

ONLY the unusual is news. This is the basic principle upon which all journalism rests, and it is the acid test of the work of all reporters. How resentful we are when an unsavory story about a nurse occupies space on a front page! We quite forget that it is there *because* it is unusual; that the word nurse is used over and over again for its news value because nurses as a rule are good citizens who rarely violate the code. We experience a similar reaction when a nurse bursts into print to relate the dreadful hardships of her training; again forgetting that it is the unusual that has news value and that the training in our well conducted schools is not an endurance test. It was news when a courageous nurse made a twenty-three mile trip on skis through a blizzard to carry food and clothing to a destitute family, because it was an extraordinary feat for any woman to perform. It was not real news when in January, their busiest month in the whole year, fifty private duty nurses volunteered for clinic duty such as is described on page 710 of this Journal. It is taken for granted that the various groups of nurses will coöperate with each other in time of unusual need or in developing a comprehensive programme. We have rightly taught the world to expect that sort of thing of us.

It is not news that thousands of nurses are quietly going on day by day; assisting in the poignant dramas of birth and death; helping the sick back to health and the handicapped to make new adjustments to life; teaching health habits to children, hygiene to the mothers, and all this to all creeds, all nationalities, the high and the low, the rich and the poor. No newspaper would think of printing an article on these things because they are the usual thing. It is news when it is said that some of us profiteer. Again it is the unusual that is given space and little mention is made of the modest incomes of those whose greatest satisfaction is in work well done. There is much truth in the adage, "No news is good news." It would be strange indeed if there were not occasional real news,—good or bad, of the thousands of nurses in this country, but the best news, like that of the adage, is that which never gets into print.

CONTRIBUTORS

THIS *Journal* carries articles by five writers whose viewpoints are essentially those of the rising generation of nurses. They are Dixie L. Davis, a first year student in the School of Christian Church Hospital, Kansas City; F. Dunne, a Senior student in the School of Hahnemann Hospital, Chicago. Katherine Emma Peirce, a "Vassar Camper," graduated in 1920 from Massachusetts General Hospital and engaged in public health work upon completion of a post-graduate course at Simmons College; Emilie G. Sargent, graduated from Mt. Sinai School for Nurses, New York, in 1920 and is now assistant superintendent of the Visiting Nurse Association of Detroit; Ethel Hyde, graduated in 1920 from Johns Hopkins School for Nurses, and is a head nurse at the Evanston Hospital, Evanston, Illinois.

The other contributors are all women who have won distinction in various fields of nursing. We are particularly indebted to Edna L. Foley, Director of the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago, for the foreword, "Quo Vadis," and to Miss Riddle, whose "Contrast" is based on thirty-five years of active hospital service.

EXHIBITS AT SEATTLE

KNOWING where to get what you want, when you want it, is a test of education. It applies equally to the buyer who is concerned with the cost and quality of materials and equipment, to the instructor who must constantly verify and augment her store of information, and to the individual whose needs are both intellectual and material.

The exhibits for the Seattle Convention are planned with educational values in mind. The professional exhibit will be the most interesting we have ever had and, for the first time, we are to have a "commercial" exhibit. Those who are responsible for the arrangements believe that the exhibits will add much to the worth of the Convention.

The meetings will be absorbing; do not allow them to put the exhibits out of your mind. Make definite plans for visiting the booths. You will want to mark your programme in advance in order that you may not overlook the papers and discussions that are of particular interest to you. Mark the exhibits also and set a time for seeing them. No human being can see and do all the interesting things at one of our national conventions. Learn from the experienced; they make discriminating plans early and they learn much from exhibits.

OUR BOOK REVIEWS

THOSE who seek guidance in the reviews of literary journals are not infrequently reminded of the saying, "Who shall decide when doctors disagree?" for what one reviewer praises to the skies another may condemn to the lowest depths. An extreme instance that comes to mind is that of Dos Passos "Three Soldiers." The *Journal* editors realize that it is impossible to secure reviews that will at one and the same time meet all needs and be in accord with all subsequent judgments. They believe, however, that the present policy of having reviews prepared by specialists in the various fields insures the publication of reviews that merit thoughtful attention on the part of those who seek guidance in adding to their own libraries and of those who are in a position to guide the professional reading of others.

The generous coöperation of busy nurses, doctors and other health workers in helping us build up this department is one of the heart-warming things that brightens our days. This month the reviews are of books that should interest every nurse, no matter what her specialty, for they deal competently and inspiringly with fundamentals—one with the mystery of life itself, another with the principles of nursing. The reviewers, like the authors, need no commendation from the editors.

CHOICE OF SCHOOLS

PROSPECTIVE nurse students should investigate our schools with the same painstaking thoroughness they would give to selecting a college. No locality has a monopoly of the good schools and there are many sources of information. In addition to National Nursing Headquarters, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, and the various State Boards, we would call attention to the Councils of Nursing Education which are prepared to serve large local areas. The Eastern Council is located at 24 Fifth Avenue, New York City; the Central Council at 116 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois; while the Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania's address is 34 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

All will give candid, unbiased information to those seeking information as to the criteria by which a school for nurses should be judged and all have lists of recognized schools for distribution.